What is claimed is:

1. A system to facilitate escape from a building in an emergency which comprises:

means for monitoring at least a part of a building for a life threatening conditions selected from the group consisting of fire, seismological and terrorist threats;

a fire ladder having a compact position and a deployed position, the fire ladder in the deployed position extending generally vertically, said fire ladder having rungs;

means for mounting the fire ladder proximate to the lower edge of an associated window in the building and means for releasably retaining the fire ladder in the compact position; and

means for releasing said fire ladder that is responsive to said means for monitoring.

2. The system as described in claim 1 wherein the means for monitoring includes photoelectric apparatus.

3. The system as described in claim 1 wherein the means for monitoring includes ionization apparatus.

4. The system as described in claim 1 wherein the system utilizes fuzzy logic.

5. The system as described in claim 1 wherein the system utilizing Boolean logic.

6. The system as described in claim 1 wherein the system utilizes a thermistor.

7. The system as described in claim 1 wherein the system utilizes a plurality of thermistors.

8. The system as described in claim 1 wherein the system includes a manual release for the ladder.

9. The system as described in claim 1 wherein the system includes a radiofrequency transmitter.

10. The system as described in claim 1 wherein the system includes a radiofrequency receiver.

11. The system as described in claim 1 wherein the rungs of the ladder have projections dimensioned and configured to rest against the side of the associated building when the ladder is deployed along the side of the associated building.

12. The system as described in claim 2 wherein the rungs of the ladder have projections dimensioned and configured to rest against the side of the associated building when the ladder is deployed along the side of the associated building.

13. The system as described in claim 3 wherein the rungs of the ladder have projections dimensioned and configured to rest against the side of the associated building when the ladder is deployed along the side of the associated building.

14. The system as described in claim 4 wherein the rungs of the ladder have projections dimensioned and configured to rest against the side of the associated building when the ladder is deployed along the side of the associated building.

15. The system as described in claim 5 wherein the rungs of the ladder have projections dimensioned and configured to rest against the side of the

associated building when the ladder is deployed along the side of the associated building.

16. The system as described in claim 6 wherein the rungs of the ladder have projections dimensioned and configured to rest against the side of the associated building when the ladder is deployed along the side of the associated building.

17. The system as described in claim 7 wherein the rungs of the ladder have projections dimensioned and configured to rest against the side of the associated building when the ladder is deployed along the side of the associated building.

18. The system as described in claim 8 wherein the rungs of the ladder have projections dimensioned and configured to rest against the side of the associated building when the ladder is deployed along the side of the associated building.

19. The system as described in claim 9 wherein the rungs of the ladder have projections dimensioned and configured to rest against the side of the associated building when the ladder is deployed along the side of the associated building.

20. The system as described in claim 10 wherein the rungs of the ladder have projections dimensioned and configured to rest against the side of the associated building when the ladder is deployed along the side of the associated building.

21. A system to facilitate escape from a building in an emergency which comprises:

means for monitoring at least a part of a building for a life threatening conditions selected from the group consisting of apparatus that employs parts

thereof selected from the group consisting of photoelectric apparatus, ionization apparatus, fuzzy logic, Boolean logic, and at least one thermistor;

a fire ladder having a compact position and a deployed position, the fire ladder in the deployed position extending generally vertically, said fire ladder having rungs;

means for mounting the fire ladder proximate to the lower edge of an associated window in the building and means for releasably retaining the fire ladder in the compact position; and

means for releasing said fire ladder that is responsive to said means for monitoring.

22. The system as described in claim 21 wherein the rungs of the ladder have projections dimensioned and configured to rest against the side of the associated building when the ladder is deployed along the side of the associated building.

23. A system to facilitate escape from a building in an emergency which comprises:

means for monitoring at least a part of a building for a life threatening conditions selected from the group consisting of apparatus that employs parts thereof selected from the group consisting of photoelectric apparatus, ionization apparatus, fuzzy logic, Boolean logic, and at least one thermistor;

a fire ladder having a compact position and a deployed position, the fire ladder in the deployed position extending generally vertically, said fire ladder having rungs having projections dimensioned and configured to rest against the side of the associated building when the ladder is deployed along the side of the associated building

means for mounting the fire ladder proximate to the lower edge of an associated window in the building and means for releasably retaining the fire ladder in the compact position; and

means for releasing said fire ladder that is responsive to said means for monitoring.

24. A method to facilitate escape from a building in an emergency which comprises:

monitoring at least a part of a building for a life threatening conditions selected from the group consisting of fire, seismological and terrorist threats;

providing a fire ladder having a compact position and a deployed position, and which in the deployed position extends generally vertically and has rungs;

mounting the fire ladder proximate to the lower edge of an associated window in a building and releasably retaining the fire ladder in the compact position; and

releasing the fire ladder that is responsive to the monitoring step.

25. The method as described in claim 24 wherein the monitoring step is performed with photoelectric apparatus.

26. The method as described in claim 24 wherein the monitoring step is performed with ionization apparatus.

27. The method as described in claim 24 wherein the monitoring step is performed in a manner that utilizes fuzzy logic.

28. The method as described in claim 24 wherein the monitoring step is performed in a manner that utilizes Boolean logic.

29. The method as described in claim 24 wherein the monitoring step is performed in a manner that utilizes a thermistor.

30. The method as described in claim 24 wherein the monitoring step is performed in a manner that utilizes a plurality of thermistors.

31. The method as described in claim 24 wherein the method includes providing a manual release for the ladder.

32. The method as described in claim 24 wherein the method includes providing a radiofrequency transmitter.

33. The method as described in claim 24 wherein the method includes providing a radiofrequency receiver.

34. The method as described in claim 24 wherein the method includes providing rungs of the ladder that have projections dimensioned and configured to rest against the side of the associated building when the ladder is deployed along the side of the associated building.

35. The method as described in claim 24 wherein the method includes providing rungs of the ladder that have projections dimensioned and configured to rest against the side of the associated building when the ladder is deployed along the side of the associated building.

36. The method as described in claim 24 wherein the rungs of the ladder have projections dimensioned and configured to rest against the side of the associated building when the ladder is deployed along the side of the associated building.

37. The method as described in claim 24 wherein the rungs of the ladder have projections dimensioned and configured to rest against the side of the associated building when the ladder is deployed along the side of the associated building.